

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 31, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER <sup>PS</sup>

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR GRANT SUBMISSION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of the Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB) application for grant funds from the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) to improve overall competitive employment opportunities for seriously mentally ill individuals through the CSB's Patrick Street Clubhouse Vocational Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Approve the grant application to DRS for funding of approximately \$20,000 annually for up to two years, to place approximately 20 Clubhouse consumers into employment positions that meet their lifework or professional goals by providing career development services including occupational assessment, linkage to training opportunities, and ongoing career guidance and counseling; and
- (2) Authorize the addition of a part-time Case Aide (0.5 FTE) to the Patrick Street Clubhouse Vocational Program in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse.

**BACKGROUND:** DRS recognizes the need to continue to establish, develop, and strengthen employment services through cooperative programming with CSBs, in order to achieve successful employment outcomes for consumers with serious mental illness who are jointly served by both DRS and CSBs. The grant proposal is based on identified practices that facilitate recovery and enhance the ability of individuals with serious mental illness to achieve and maintain competitive employment in regular community work settings. The grant proposal is based on proven practice principles that emphasize consumer preference and choice and that help move consumers beyond the patient role through employment.

**DISCUSSION:** This grant proposes adding a part-time Case Aide (0.5 FTE). The staff will augment the existing Vocational Program by providing career development services, which are currently not available. Approximately \$20,000 will be awarded for FY 2005 with continuation

for the second year contingent on the availability of funds and the successful attainment of annual project objectives.

The Case Aide would provide career counseling and guidance to Patrick Street Clubhouse consumers who are either considering employment or who are currently employed and seeking further career planning or career advancement. Staff services would be supplemented by use of occupational assessment software and linkage to training opportunities.

The services that would be provided through this grant are consistent with Council's recent efforts in setting major goals for the City, one of which is caring for individuals who are at-risk.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The grant proposal is for approximately \$20,000 annually, for up to two years, which is the maximum allowed through this grant application process. No City match is required. It should be noted that there are no monies in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended. At the end of the grant period, the part-time position will be eliminated.

**ATTACHMENT:** None. The grant application may be reviewed in Room 3630 (Office of Management and Budget), City Hall, on or after April 16, 2004.

**STAFF:**

Michael Gilmore, Ph.D., Director, MH/MR/SA

Gwendolyn Vaughan, Coordinator, Vocational and Pre-Vocational Services, MH/MR/SA

Sandy Murphy, Budget/Management Analyst, Office of Management and Budget